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*The Pearl* by John Steinbeck

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Chapter 1

1. This story is a parable. What does that mean and what would the purpose be for reading this selection?
2. What is "music" to the Mexican Indians? Cite three examples.
3. Describe the simple life of Kino's people.
4. Draw two conclusions about the "closeness of the neighborhood".
5. Discuss the doctor and the class of people he represents? What is their relationship to Kino's people?
6. Give two examples of Juana's strength and assertiveness in spite of their male dominant society.
7. Kino is a quiet man with oppressed feelings. Cite an example of this.

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Chapter 2

1. Describe the setting of the novel.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. The canoe and the pearl are symbols in this parable. Explain the significance of the canoe and the significance of the pearl.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Cite two beliefs of the Mexican Indians from this chapter.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What is the climax in this chapter and why is it a turning point?

Chapter 3

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1. In this chapter the doctor is a hypocrite. Explain what he did and why.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How does the upper class try to exploit Kino once he has found the “pearl of the world”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Cite a foreshadow in this chapter.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. In what way does Kino’s personality begin to change once he has the “pearl of the world”? Give support.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Through what senses does Steinbeck describe the attack on Kino?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. In spite of the evil that has begun to surface, what does Kino see in the pearl?

Chapter 4

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1. How do the upper class and the lower class react to the day Kino attempts to sell the pearl?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Compare how Kino and the pearl buyers both 'bargain' during the attempted sale of the pearl.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How does Juana show how perceptive she is?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Kino has a change of plans with the pearl. What is it and what does he fear? What is his driving force?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. According to Kino, what does it mean to 'be a man'?

Chapter 5

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1. Describe the incident between Kino and Juana. Why does he do this? How does Juana justify it?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Describe the attack in this chapter and how must Kino and Juana save themselves?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. According to Kino, what is the worst evil thus far?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Why do Kino and Juana go to his brother's? What does Juan Thomas tell others?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Interpret Kino's statement that "this pearl has become my soul".

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Chapter 6

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1. On their journey, what is the source of Kino's strength?
  
2. Why does Kino feel he must kill again?
  
3. How does Kino show moments of weakness and Juana moments of strength?
  
4. How are the pools of water viewed? This applies to Kino as well.
  
4. Juana sends Kino off by saying "go with God".
  
5. Kino is compared to a machine and steel. What was his plan for his attack of the 3 trackers? How did it suddenly change?
  
6. Kino and Juana return to the town of La Paz void of emotions. Cite two examples of the way Steinbeck expresses this and then interpret each one.